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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL: LATEST KOSOVO RECOGNITION TARGET DATE IS OCTOBER 7

REF: LISBON 02628

Classified By: AMBASSADOR THOMAS STEPHENSON FOR REASONS 1.4 (b, d)

SUMMARY

¶1. (C/NF) In an October 3 meeting Portuguese MFA Director General for Foreign Policy Nuno Brito said he "hopes" Portugal will formally recognize Kosovo on October 7, and that President Cavaco Silva told Serbian President Tadic it is time for Portugal to move on regarding the issue. Brito related that Cuba is weighing moves toward more openness but is awaiting the new U.S. administration, and the Ambassador responded that it is a mistake to delay action as there will likely be no major shifts in U.S. foreign policy based on the election outcome. Brito also said he is not aware of any new GALP Energia overtures for business with Iran, and that the EU is trying to get Iran to move on the nuclear issue. End summary.

KOSOVO RECOGNITION...AGAIN...

¶2. (C/NF) Ambassador Stephenson opened the hour-long October 3 meeting with MFA Director General for Foreign Policy Nuno Brito with the U.S. position re the Serbian resolution in the International Court of Justice. After Brito's reply (that Portugal will abstain with the rest of the EU, septel) he went on to say he "hopes" the GOP will recognize Kosovo after the October 7 session of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Brito warned that some on the committee will oppose recognition but all necessary consultations with President Cavaco Silva and the political parties will have been completed before the session. Brito said during his recent visit to New York President Cavaco Silva told Serbian President Tadic it is time for Portugal to move beyond the recognition issue.

SOME HOPE FOR CUBA, BUT NO NEWS ON IRAN

¶3. (C/NF) Brito then described a recent conversation between FM Amado and Cuban FM Felipe Perez Roque in which Amado urged Cuba to undertake democratic reforms. Brito said Roque joked that Cuba could hardly begin to move toward democracy when the U.S. had just begun to nationalize the financial sector, but Cuba will decide on a course of action after the U.S. presidential election. The Ambassador commented it is a mistake for Cuba or other nations to delay addressing issues with the U.S. because U.S. foreign policy is not likely to change substantially based on the election outcome.

¶4. (C/NF) The Ambassador asked Brito if major GALP Energia investor Americo Amorim was "behaving himself" regarding prospective dealings with Iran. Brito replied that he had no new information and said while Portugal and the EU were "trying to get Iran to move" on the nuclear issue, some in the EU "are not on the same page" as the U.S.

COMMENT

15. (C/NF) At this point we will believe in Portuguese recognition of Kosovo when we see it, but it is refreshing for the MFA to say Kosovo recognition will be used to temper Serbian hopes in the International Court of Justice. End Comment.

STEPHENSON